

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 04803 131044Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 /060 W
-----119366 140253Z /64

R 130926Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE 8113
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USICA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4803

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: THREE PROMINENT CRITICS OF GOVERNMENT ARRESTED

REF: (A) JAKARTA 15545 (1977) (DTG 170910Z NOV 77) (NOTAL)
(B) JAKARTA 15657 (1977) (DTG 220700Z NOV 77) (NOTAL)
(C) JAKARTA 0180 (DTG 050845Z JAN 78) (NOTAL)
(D) JAKARTA 4090 (DTG 300926Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THREE PROMINENT CRITICS OF THE SUHARTO
REGIME--ALL WITH TIES TO THE STUDENT DISSIDENT MOVEMENT
AND ALL IDENTIFIED WITH POLITICAL ISALM--HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.
IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP
BECAUSE OF SPECIFIC (REAL OR IMAGINED) DISSIDENT ACTS OR
WHETHER THEIR DETENTION IS PART OF A BROADER GOVERNMENT EFFORT
TO DISCOURAGE MUSLIM DISSIDENCE.

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END SUMMARY.

2. THREE PROMINENT CITICS OF THE SUHARTO REGIME-
COLUMNIST AND PPP POLITICO H. MAHBUB DJUNAIDI, RECTOR
OF THE ISLAMIC MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY PROF. ISMAIL
SUNY AND WRITER AND FORMER REVOLUTIONARY HERO DRS.
SOETOMO (BUNG TOMO)--WERE ARRESTED BY JAKARTA MILITARY

POLICE ON APRIL 11, ON WRITTEN ORDERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED CHARGES AGAINST THE THREE OR GIVEN ANY HINT HOW LONG THEY MIGHT BE HELD. SECURITY OFFICIALS QUERIED BY THE PRESS HAVE REFERRED ALL QUESTIONS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO HAS MADE HIMSELF CONSPICUOUSLY UNAVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN.

3. DJUNAIDI'S ARREST HAS BEEN RUMORED IN THE OFFING FOR SOME TIME, BECAUSE OF HIS OCCASIONAL CRITICAL, MOCKING COLUMNS ON SUHARTO AND HIS REGIME IN THE MUSLIM PAPER PELITA AND THE RESPECTED WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE TEMPO. FOR SUNY AND DUNG TOMO, THIS REPRESENTS THEIR SECOND RECENT ARREST. BUNG TOMO WAS PICKED UP BRIEFLY LAST NOVEMBER, FOR AUTHORIZING A SMALL BOOK CHARGING THE GOVERNMENT WITH SUPPRESSION OF POLITICAL ISLAM (REFERENCES A AND B), AND SUNY WAS HELD FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN EARLY JANUARY, AFTER REGALING A UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE WITH TALES OF CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES IN THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT (REFERENCE C).

4. COMMENT. THE LOCAL PRESS IS SUGGESTING THAT THE ARREST OF THE THREE GOVERNMENT CRITICS IS RELATED TO THEIR ALLEGED ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRE-MPR STUDENT DISSIDENCE. THE GOLKAR PAPER SUARA KARYA, QUOTING UNNAMED "RELIABLE" SOURCES, SAYS THAT THREE MEN WERE "FANNING THE STUDENT MOVEMENT BEFORE AND DURING THE MPR."
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ALL THREE ALSO HAVE STRONG TIES TO ISLAMIC POLITICAL FORCES. THE GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY WILL HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE FINDING SOME REASON (OR PRETEXT) TO CHARGE AND CONVICT THEM, IF IT IS SO INCLINED. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL, HOWEVER, WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE OF (REAL OR IMAGINED) SPECIFIC ACTS OF DISSIDENCE, OR WHETHER THEIR DETENTION IS THE NEWEST PHASE OF A BROADER GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE MUSLIM POLITICAL DISSENT, AS MANY MUSLIMS FEAR.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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